



September 2004

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### • **Legislative Update**

Congress was in recess during August. Nothing to report. Congress returns September 7.

### • **Update on the NPS Advisory Board Report on the National Heritage Areas**

**-NPS Advisory Board Partnership Committee Meeting--**The Partnership Committee members have now been selected, and will meet in the Blackstone River Valley NHC September 7-8, 2004. Members will get up to speed on national heritage areas, develop consensus on the greatest challenges facing national heritage areas within and outside of the National Park Service, and envision a future for the relationship of heritage areas with NPS.

**-Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Sustainability Study--**Staff from the National Park Service, NPS Conservation Study Institute and the Corridor met in the Blackstone River Valley on July 26-27 to outline a plan of action for the sustainability study, which will analyze the Corridor's progress and recommend future steps. Research and analysis begins the first week in August. The study is scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2004. Senator Chafee (D--RI) has introduced a bill to outline the purposes of such a study (S. 2646).

### • **I&M Canal NHC Commission Sunsets; Corridor Continues**

-On August 24, 2004, the Federal Commission for the nation's first national heritage area sunsets concluding 20 years as the management entity for the **Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor**. During the Commission's tenure, the I&M Canal Corridor has grown from a novel idea to a partnership success, linking the efforts of five counties, 49 municipalities, and numerous private organizations in an area stretching 100 miles from Chicago to rural north-central Illinois. The I&M Canal itself is a National Historic Landmark. This designation reflects the canal's impact in the 19th century in linking the watersheds of the Mississippi and Great Lakes systems, enabling commerce and transportation to



flow between the Gulf of Mexico and the North Atlantic, and fostering the growth of Chicago and the upper Midwest.

The Federal Commission has been staffed by the National Park Service, which will close its office in Lockport, Illinois at the end of the fiscal year. Although the legislation that created the National Heritage Corridor provided for the Commission and its federal staff to sunset, the National Heritage Corridor designation itself does not sunset. H.R. 4492, now pending in Congress, would amend the legislation to designate the non-profit Canal Corridor Association as the new management entity.

- **Alliance of National Heritage Areas hires executive director**

-The **Alliance of National Heritage Areas** (ANHA) has announced that John Cosgrove will begin as Executive Director starting September 1st. This will be the first professional staff person for the organization, which was formed in 1997. The ANHA is a membership organization of the 24 National Heritage Areas, as well as organizations, partners, and individuals that support and participate in heritage development initiatives. Cosgrove was formerly executive director of the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority in Scranton, Pennsylvania. For more information about the ANHA visit <http://www.nationalheritageareas.org>. The ANHA will hold its next business meeting October 7-9, 2004 in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.

- **This Month in the Heritage Areas**

-**Cane River NHA** is highlighted in the latest issue of *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. The article discusses the innovative ways that GIS becomes a valuable resource



management planning tool when it is used to document cultural resources in combination with other natural and built landscape features. Staff at Cane River NHA will receive training in order to use the GIS databases to provide information related to interpretation and other projects and programs. For more information on using GIS to document cultural resources, and its applicability to heritage planning, contact [Deidre\\_McCarthy@nps.gov](mailto:Deidre_McCarthy@nps.gov). To subscribe to CRM, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/CRMJournal>.

-**Bethlehem Steel, Homestead Works, Saugus Iron Works and the Rivers of Steel** museum were highlighted in the Wall Street Journal Marketplace section on August 10 in an article on the rise of industrial sites as tourist attractions. Excerpts of the article appeared in the August 16 edition of the Washington Post Metro in the “Look Out” section, along with an interior shot of the Rivers of Steel museum. Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area is involved in the preservation of Homestead Works, Bethlehem Steel is part of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, and Saugus Iron Works is within the Essex National Heritage Corridor.

-The Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) has selected a **Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area** (SSNHA) program for recognition in the Cultural Heritage category for its annual Odyssey Awards. Each year at its Marketing Outlook Forum, The Odyssey Awards are presented to organizations representing the best of emerging trends in the industry. This year, SSNHA’s group travel program, Living an Iowa Farm Experience Tours (LIFE Tours), was chosen as a finalist in the competition for this prestigious award. Travelers on motorcoach tours may visit a 1000-head dairy operation, an organic swine and cattle farm, or heirloom vegetable gardens, tour

an implement dealership, a grain terminal, or a restored 19<sup>th</sup> century round barn, watch border collies herding sheep, hand feed live buffalo from a wagon, or learn how a goat dairy operates. For more information, visit <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org>.



## ● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-As part of its **WE THE PEOPLE** initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities seeks applications for public programs that focus on *AMERICA'S HISTORIC PLACES*. Applications may be submitted under the Museums and Historic Sites, Libraries and Archives, or Special Projects grant categories—Consultation and Planning by September 16, 2004 and Implementation TBD (February 2005). *AMERICA'S HISTORIC PLACES* are public humanities programs that use one or more historic sites to address themes and issues central to American history. Projects can interpret a single historic site, a series of sites, whole neighborhoods, communities or towns, or larger geographical regions. The place taken as a whole must be significant to American history and the project must convey its importance to visitors. For more information, visit <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/historicplaces.html>, or contact Division of Public Programs, 202-606-8267, [publicpgms@neh.gov](mailto:publicpgms@neh.gov), or *We the People*, 202-606-8299, [wtp@neh.gov](mailto:wtp@neh.gov).

## ● Upcoming Conferences and workshops

-Visit the **Heritage Development Institute** website for course descriptions and registration information: <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>. Courses will be held:

- September 23-24, 2004 in Butte and Virginia City, Montana.

-Wednesday, September 29, 2004, Louisville, KY: 9-2.30p at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference—*The Basics of Heritage Areas: Getting Started*. Register through the National Trust at <https://www.nthpconference.org>.

-Consider attending the **National Preservation Conference**--sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and co-sponsored by a number of partners including the National Park Service, this annual conference offers a range of sessions on historic preservation and related cultural preservation topics. Attendance numbers in the thousands. This year's focus areas include advocacy, revitalization, cultural diversity, cultural landscapes, heritage education, and heritage tourism, among others. For more information and to register on-line, visit: <https://www.nthpconference.org>.

-**2005 International Heritage Development Conference**: June 5-8, 2005, Nashville, TN: sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Field trips, mobile workshops, evening events and educational sessions will allow participants to experience Southern culture while learning about national and international trends in preserving and celebrating distinctive landscapes. For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.ihdc2005.org>. Those who submitted session proposals will be notified in September.

**-VAST 2004--**The 5th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Location: Conscience-auditorium, Brussels and Ename Center, Oudenaarde – Belgium, December 7th-10th 2004. This year's theme: **Interdisciplinarity or “The Best of Both Worlds”: The Grand Challenge for Cultural Heritage Informatics in the 21st Century**. A call has been put out for *presentations of full research papers*, which will be refereed and included in a high-quality proceedings volume to be published by Eurographics, and *presentations of work-in-progress*, presented in shorter sessions and separately identified when published. Full papers due September 12, 2004, short papers due September 24, 2004. For more information and a list of suggested topics, visit [http://www.enamecenter.org/pages/events\\_conference\\_2004.html](http://www.enamecenter.org/pages/events_conference_2004.html), or contact Eva Roels ([vast2004@enamecenter.org](mailto:vast2004@enamecenter.org), +32 55 23 24 47).

**-2005 George Wright Society Conference:** March 14-18, 2005. Formerly geared toward academics and National Park Service employees, this biennial conference is now attracting attendees from other disciplines and private and public sectors. This year's conference addresses the linkages between nature and culture, and highlights current hot topics such as education and interpretation and social justice. Abstracts for papers, sessions, workshops, field trips, and side meetings must be received by October 8, 2004. Visit <http://www.georgewright.org/2005.html>.



**-2005 Society for Applied Anthropology Conference:** All abstracts must be received by October 15, 2004. Visit <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2005/2005instruct.html>.

- **Other happenings in the Washington Office**

-Visitors from **Palestine** visited the NPS International Affairs Office to learn about the National Park Service. Brenda Barrett gave a presentation on the national heritage areas and answered questions about the designation and management of these living landscapes.

- **For more information on the heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

- Reach the editors at [brenda\\_barrett@nps.gov](mailto:brenda_barrett@nps.gov) or [suzanne\\_copping@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov)
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